



## Athlete Profile (National)

**Anthony Alegre**

**Marine Corps Combat-Wounded Veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom**

**26 years old**

**Gray, Georgia**

Anthony Alegre, a 26-year-old combat-wounded Veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, had his first experience with the National Veterans Wheelchair Games in 2009. When asked to identify the most important thing he learned from the Games, Alegre said it was, "continually finding new ways to improve."

Returning for his second year, Alegre is ready to take on new challenges, setting his sights on the weightlifting and trapshooting events.

"When I started shooting my pellet gun last year, I felt emotions I forgot I had," said Alegre. "I forgot what it was like before I was injured and I let my competitive side take over."

Alegre was injured in 2004, when his vehicle was hit by an IED while on patrol in Ramadi, Iraq. Since the injury, it has been an uphill battle to gain the confidence and determination he once had. The support he received from his family and fellow Veterans has encouraged him to stay active and set new goals.

For Alegre, it's not all about winning, but taking a step back and finding new ways to do the things he loves. At this year's National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Denver, Colorado, he will have the chance to see just how much he has improved.

**"Just go have fun, talk to other Veterans, share your experiences and listen to theirs," said Alegre. "It's not about the medals you win – it's about the friends you make. That's what is important."**

